

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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The Last Invitation in the Bible

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" — Revelation 22:17.

The world says, "Keep Out!" but God says to every poor sinner, "Come!" Many a door to private office or gate to private estate has the sign, "Private — No Admission," but praise God, the Lord Jesus Christ opens wide the doors of Heaven and of the Father's house of many mansions and says to whosoever will, "Come, take the water of life freely." Many a lovely estate has signs on the beautifully kept lawn which say, "Keep Off the Grass." Many a boy has looked sadly through the fence at an entrancing woodland where there are flowers to pick, trees to climb and water where one might catch minnows or go swimming, if only the sign did not say, "Posted — Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted." As we started to drive up a mountain to see a famous old castle in New Jersey, overlooking the sea, an officer stopped us and pointed to a sign, "Restricted Area, Do Not Enter." And all over the earth multitudes of the poor go through life reading signs that say, "Keep Out." But blessed be God, the poorest, the most ignorant, the most sinful, are invited to Heaven where children will play, unmolested, on streets of solid gold, where saints may refresh themselves and visit on the heavenly lawns, in the shade of the evergreen trees which bear twelve manner of fruits, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. All who will are invited to play on the sands by the river of life, whose waters are as clear as crystal. Without restriction, the poorest may hear the concerts of the angels, and the lowest of earth may walk unabashed and be gladly welcomed into the presence of the King Himself! The world says, "Keep Out!" But God says, "Come!"

Here is God's last invitation to the sinner in His blessed Bible. Through Isaiah He had said, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18). And that prophet had cried out, "Ho, every

one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat, yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and with-



JOHN R. RICE

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WOMAN READ "AND GOD REMEMBERED..." FOUND FAITH TO CLAIM A BABY AND RECEIVES IT

In the book, "And God Remembered..." by Editor John R. Rice, the first sermon tells how God remembered Rachel when she was barren and gave her a baby, of Hannah, "And God remembered her" and gave the baby Samuel, and continues with the Bible proof that God never forgets our prayers but keeps them as sweet incense and bottles all our tears. It is a remarkable fact that many women have been encouraged by that sermon to pray for babies, and a number have written to tell me how happy they are that God has heard their prayer.

A recent letter from a godly woman in Texas tells how she had been praying for a baby for seven years, but on reading that sermon in the book, "And God Remembered..." she found faith to claim God's blessing and that now God has answered her prayer with a baby! In her letter she says, "Dear Brother Rice:

"Please send me your new book, *Prayer — Asking and Receiving*. We have received many blessed answers to prayer and you have helped us so much on prayer. We read your book, *And God Remembered...* where He remembered Rachel, for I had been praying for a child for seven years. When I read that chapter I really prayed as I had never prayed before, and promised God if He would send me a boy I would dedicate him to the Lord when he arrived so He could

have him to use as he saw fit. I feel like it will be a preacher. Don't you think I should go ahead and dedicate my baby to the Lord? I want to know what you think about it. I promised God I would take him to church and have the dedication made..."

Other sermons in the book are:

Tears in Heaven

"Where Is the Lord God of Elijah?"

The Exceeding Abundantly Able God

"Behold the Man!"

The Torn Veil

The book has 123 pages, has special illustrations for each chapter, and these six sermons are favorite messages selected out of a long writing ministry for this book of devotional Bible teaching. A fine number have been saved through these sermons. There are decision slips at the end of several.

You, too, will be strengthened in faith by these messages that have helped so many.

Cloth bound, with beautiful gold paper jacket, the book sells postpaid for only 50c, 5 copies for \$2.00. It makes a beautiful gift.

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PLAIN TALKING FROM THE MASTER TO HIS DISCIPLES

BY GIPSY SMITH, SR., World Famous Evangelist

(Sermon preached October 4, 1942, at Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Illinois. Mechanically recorded for *The Sword of the Lord*.)

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"If ye love me, keep my commandments.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

—John 14:15-18

I want to give to you some things Jesus said just after that first communion, that first communion which He instituted in that upper room with His disciples, just before He left, you remember, for that awful walk and agony to the garden of Gethsemane. I think we should remember this morning some of the things He said. These special words — He spoke ever so many in the 13th chapter, the 14th chapter, the 15th chapter, the 16th chapter, and then that wonderful prayer in the 17th chapter of John. The verses I have in my mind and can't get away from them — I was thinking about them nearly all night long. I couldn't sleep for thinking of them. They are from the 16th verse of the 14th chapter of St. John's Gospel, where Jesus speaks of the promise of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, and He speaks again a little later of Him — indeed, He keeps on talking about Him in these chapters to which I have referred.

And in the 16th chapter, you will remember those of you who were here on Thursday night, we spoke about those verses where Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he (a person, not it, not a blessing, but a Blessor) when he is come he will take of mine." He will first of all convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He will give some people the right notion about sin. He will make them see what a sinful thing sin is. He will help people to fathom the depths of their own sin, and He will make them hate themselves for having committed it. He will help them to see sin in themselves until they loathe themselves for being so sinful, so rebellious and such rejectors of that blessed Jesus who was despised and rejected of men.

And I can hardly say those words without my heart melting. To be spit upon, spit upon — Jesus, the Son of God, spit upon! I stood in the room in Jerusalem in 1926 where tradition says the Roman soldiers, amid the rude rabble of cursing and swearing and spitting on Him, took Him and stood Him and stripped Him of every shred He had upon Him. Jesus, the mighty God in human form, being stripped! Can you imagine such, such, such humiliation? Can you?



Evangelist Gipsy Smith in revival work steadily 65 years, has engagements a year ahead. A Spirit-filled preacher who preaches with compassion and tears.

How would you like that, refined man, refined woman? How would you like that? Yet Jesus went through that for you and for me. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Through His heart rumbled the woes of time and the horrors of eternity. He scaled the heights of human disaster and misery and sat under death. Your death and mine!

Have You Room for Jesus?

Is it anything to you? Have you ever said, "Thank you?" Have you ever gotten down on your knees and said, "Blessed Jesus, thank you for doing that for me?" Have you? Why, if you slipped and I was anywhere near or anybody else was and they steadied you with a strong hand, you would say, "Thank you." Have you ever said, "Thank you" to Jesus for plunging from the highest height to your deepest depth? Have you ever said, "Thank you"?

You've got room in your heart for a dog and a cat and no room for Jesus. And I am talking to people over the radio this morning who have lots of room in their houses for all sorts of things, but no room for Jesus. You've got room in your pockets. You've got some things in your pockets you wouldn't like the angels to see, but you've no room in your heart for Jesus, some of you. And it was about these moments, drenched, drenched, drenched, saturated with the rejection of a world and the hatred of

Hell and devils and men joining hands to tear apart the quivering heart of the Son of God — it was in such moments that He was thinking of you and me when He

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TOO LATE!

BY DR. R. A. TORREY

One evening when Mr. Alexander and I were in Brighton, England, one of the workers went out from the afternoon meeting to a restaurant for his evening meal. His attention was drawn toward the man who waited upon him, and there came to his heart a strong impression that he should speak to that waiter about his soul, but that seemed to him such an unusual thing to do that he kept putting it off. When the meal was ended and the bill paid, he stepped out of the restaurant, but had such a feeling that he should speak to that waiter that he decided to wait outside until the waiter came out. In a little while the proprietor came out and asked him why he was waiting. He replied that he was waiting to speak with the man who had waited upon him at the table. The proprietor replied, "You will never speak to that man again. After waiting upon you he went to his room and shot himself." Oh, men and women, there are opportunities open to every one of us tonight that will be gone, and gone forever, before another day dawns. The time is short!

THE LAST INVITATION IN THE BIBLE

(Continued from page one)

out price" (Isaiah 55:4). And in the New Testament Jesus had invited all that labour and are heavy laden, to come (Matthew 11:28-30). He insisted that the little children be allowed to come and promised, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). In fact, all the Bible is God's blessed invitation to come, come to Heaven, come away from sin and destruction, come with your sorrows and sins and troubles, come to Jesus! Come, take salvation and everlasting life and a home in Heaven freely!

And now at last God is about to close the canon of Scripture. Covering a period of fifteen hundred years God had used about forty men in writing the Bible. Now the aged John, the beloved disciple, an exile on the Isle of Patmos, off the coast of Greece, writing the closing chapter of the book of Revelation — God seemed to say to him, "Wait a minute, John! Don't close the book yet. Don't write the last amen until I give you one more blessed and urgent invitation for sinners. 'The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.' " God was not willing to close the Book of books without another invitation to poor lost sinners. And so in the last chapter of the last book in the Bible, the Lord Jesus has it written down for us again, "COME!"

As we study this precious verse let us notice first who invites, and second, who is invited, and third, see the blessed invitation.

I. Who Invites Sinners to Come?

1. *The Holy Spirit says, "Come."* God invites every person born into the world to come and be saved, and His first Agent is the Spirit of God Himself.

The Holy Spirit of God brooded over the face of the earth while it was being created and I think He then was lovingly planning how He would call all men to come and be saved. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32), and He must have meant that through the blessed Holy Spirit He would speak to the heart of every unredeemed sinner on the earth. Romans 2:14, 15 show us that the Holy Spirit of God writes the moral law in the hearts of heathen sinners who have never heard the law of God, and makes their consciences to bear witness and turns their thoughts toward sin and God. The heathen man Cornelius, who, we suppose, never heard a gospel message and never read a word of the Bible, yet was moved by the Holy Spirit to call on God, to pray, to long for salvation. And many a heathen in Africa and China has been troubled about his sins, has longed for God, has prayed for light, and has seen visions or dreamed dreams that led him to the missionary or to the Bible, to learn how to be saved. The Holy Spirit says to every poor sinner on the globe, "Come."

We are told that Christ was "the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9). But that light of Christ is carried by His Spirit, and so the Holy Spirit, in some measure, convicts and enlightens every man that comes into the world, concerning his need of a Saviour. The Holy Spirit says, "Come."

It is the Holy Spirit who brings conviction to sinners.

Of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." It was this convicting by the Holy Spirit that followed Paul on the

road down to Damascus. "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks," the Lord Jesus told him. And the pricks that Paul was kicking against were the warnings and pleadings of the Holy Spirit. I think the Holy Spirit may have brought before Paul continually the face of dying Stephen, and in his ears the Holy Spirit may have caused to ring again and again the forgiving prayer of that Spirit-filled man whose face was as the face of an angel when he died, stoned while Paul kept the garments of those who murdered him!

It was the same Holy Spirit who spoke to the wicked jailor at Philippi until he sprang in and came trembling and fell down before Paul and Silas and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And this Holy Spirit has spoken to every person who lives. You, dear sinner, have been warned! If you go to Hell, you will not go without an invitation. You will not go without knowing God loves you, without knowing that you are a sinner who needs forgiveness, without knowing that you are invited to come and be saved.

But we must remember that God has said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man" (Gen. 6:3). Oh, dear reader, if you are unsaved, heed the sweet call, the tender invitation of God's Spirit today! "The Spirit and the bride say, Come."

2. *The heavenly city, new Jerusalem, invites sinners to come!* Heaven is calling for every one.

Some have thought that the bride, mentioned in Revelation 22:17, means the church, the saved ones. But a study of the context shows that is not true. The next clause in the verse says, "And let him that heareth say, Come." God does call through His church, through the saved, but the saved are not pictured here by the bride. Chapters 21 and 22 of Revelation are really one. In Revelation 21:2 we are told, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." The bride here is the new Jerusalem, the heavenly city.

And in Revelation 21:9, 10 we are told,

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."

"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

The bride here is "that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

The figure of marriage is used in the Bible more than once. God's devotion to Israel is pictured as that of a godly husband toward an adulterous wife (Hosea 3:1-5). And in Ephesians 5 husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. And Paul sought to present those he won to Christ, "as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 11:2). But here the figure is clearly used about Christ and Heaven. All Heaven has been adorning itself for Christ! Heaven missed Him when He was away and the holy city is decorated for His coming as a bride is adorned for her husband.

Remember that Christ will reign on the earth for a thousand years, and in that time He will be, at least partially, absent from the Father's house of many mansions, that new Jerusalem, in Heaven. But when the thousand year's reign is finished, then the new Jerusalem will come down from God out of Heaven, and God Himself will make His tabernacle on earth with men. And the heavenly Jerusalem will come down to meet Christ, adorned as a bride adorned for her husband!

So the teaching here is that Heaven is calling, calling, calling, for sinners! "The bride says, Come."

On this matter of the appeal of Heaven, the common people know a lot more than we preachers. The songs that people love, the songs of the common people tell of their heart-hunger for Heaven. "There's a land that is fairer than day," the people love to sing, and all hope to be there "in the sweet by and by."

"O land of rest for thee I sigh, When shall the moment come

When I shall lay my armor by And dwell in peace at home?" is the cry of millions of hungry hearts.

"When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there"—oh, how joyfully and boldly they sang it in my childhood, and the common people love it still.

"When we all get to Heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!"

When we all see Jesus We'll sing and shout the victory."

How these familiar words have stirred the hearts of multitudes!

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye,

To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie"—

so sang our fathers. And those who do not have many possessions in this world look forward happily to a land of peace and plenty.

And people sing about "No Disappointment in Heaven" and about "The City Four-square" and "The Land Where We'll Never Grow Old," and again "Of the Land Where the Roses Never Fade." They sing of "Jerusalem, the Golden," in the more stately old churches, while the southern negroes sing, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, Coming for to Carry Me Home."

Oh, the surging, ever-recurrent longing of the human heart for Heaven!

People want to go where there is no poverty, where there is no crime, where there are no good-byes, where there are no death-beds, no broken homes, for former things are passed away. And preachers and Christian workers do well to remember this hunger of heart that is everywhere, this longing for peace and home and rest, and need to tell the people that the heavenly Jerusalem is calling, calling!

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled.... In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." He meant to entice and attract His disciples with the blessed invitation of Heaven.

Oh, dear sinner, Heaven calls you! The Saviour there wants to see you! The angels there wait with misty eyes and trembling smiles to see you landed safe home! A mother, a father or a baby that left you broken-hearted — they are waiting on that beautiful shore. God meant that Heaven should call every poor sinner and entice you and invite you and plead with you to come and be saved.

"Come," says the holy city, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. "Let the pauper come and want for nothing. Let the outcast come where he will be an intimate and associate of the blessed King of kings. Let the sinner come where he will be a saint of God. Let the harlot come where she will be pure. Let the drunkard come where he will be sober, and let the vile come where they will be pure and good!" That is the call of Heaven to sinners. "The bride says, Come."

3. *Every hearer should pass on the invitation to sinners.* "And let him that heareth say, Come."

The Holy Spirit has called every man that has come into the world. He is calling still, convicting still, pleading still. The heavenly Jerusalem, the blessed, eternal home of the redeemed, is God's sweet invitation to come and be saved and have everlasting life. And now the Saviour urges, "And let him that heareth say, Come."

That is why Paul said, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise" (Rom. 1:14). Paul heard the blessed invitation and so he had to tell it! If you have heard it, you ought to tell it.

How I thank God that I heard the blessed invitation. My mother told me about the Saviour when I was about five years old. We sang sweet songs, gathered around her knee where there was not even a cottage organ to carry the melody. She talked to us about the picture cards we got at Sunday School. And when mother lay dying, she made us promise to meet her in Heaven. I am so glad mother told me!

And when I was eight years old in a Sunday School class in Gainesville, Texas, a dear woman, long since gone to Heaven, a Mrs. Powers, taught my Sunday School class. With trembling lips she told us more than once that she prayed for us every night; that she would

never be content until the last one of us had found Christ as our Saviour. How real she made it! And when the pastor on Sunday morning told the story of the prodigal son and invited people to come to Jesus, I slid off the pew, and walked down the aisle to take Christ as my Saviour. I was eight or nine, but I knew what it meant to come to Jesus. Mrs. Powers had made it plain.

When I get to Heaven, God is going to let me put my arms around that dear saint and thank her for the way she wept over and prayed for this motherless lad in her Sunday School class! She was not any bathing beauty queen. She was not any "Miss America." She was old and heavy, and her face was plain. She dressed in a black dress and a black sunbonnet, but she told me that Jesus had invited me to come!

And so, since I have heard the story, I must tell others.

Have you heard God's blessed invitation? Have you found the peace He promised? Are you headed for the holy city, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband? Oh, then, brother, sister, tell somebody else! Pass the word along! Let everyone who has heard it, tell it.

Some people think that preaching the gospel is only for ministers, only for the paid leaders of the congregation. But that is not true. Every child who has been saved should tell somebody else. Every timid woman who has found salvation should proclaim it boldly to her friends, and even to strangers. How ungrateful, how dishonest, how callous is the Christian who has heard the good news and does not pass it on! "Let him that heareth say, Come."

II. Those Invited

Now let us see to whom the blessed invitation is given.

1. *"Let him that is athirst come."* Let everybody who wants salvation, let everybody who is dissatisfied with himself, let everyone who is conscience-stricken, who longs to have peace, come to Jesus and be saved!

Disobedient and careless Christians who do not try to win souls sometimes think that every unconverted person is careless and utterly indifferent to his soul's welfare, but I well know that that is not the case. Zacchaeus, the little man who climbed a tree to see Jesus, was thirsty. It didn't take long for him to get salvation. The poor publican in the temple who prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner," (Luke 18:13) was thirsty. That poor burdened woman who was a notorious sinner, who came behind Jesus and wept over His feet and washed them with tears and dried them with the hair of her head — she was thirsty for the water of life. And the cold-hearted disciples had no idea of this truth, but the Samaritan woman who had been married five times and was living

with a man to whom she was not married, the woman who was willing to argue with Jesus and who hated the Jews, yet was thirsty in her soul, and as soon as Jesus told her that He was the Messiah, she trusted Him with all of her heart and left her waterpot, to run and tell others, "Is not this the Christ?" (John 4:1-32).

A college senior, president of his class, an honor student, wept as he told me that nobody had cared about his soul. He had long been thirsty for salvation. With sobs and tears a young wife told me how she had read the Bible every night and prayed, longed to find salvation but did not know how! Some sinners are thirsty for salvation and long for peace and assurance that their sins are forgiven.

Are you, dear reader, thirsty? Then Jesus plainly says, "And let him that is athirst come."

2. *"Whosoever" is invited.* In this last invitation in the Bible Jesus plainly says, "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

On many a door there is a sign, "Employees Only." I passed the beautiful grounds of a private country club and the sign said, "Members Only." Men like to be exclusive about their good things. A restaurant at a lake resort had a sign that announced, "For Gentiles." Jews, the race of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and David and Paul and Peter and John and James — the race of the Lord Jesus Christ — Jews were not wanted. Of course I didn't go in. And may God forgive any Christian who ever does enter a place that hates the Jews, the people so dear to God, beloved for the Father's sake. And some hotels do not allow colored people, and Hitler would reserve many privileges for the Nordic races only. There is much discrimination among men here on earth. But thanks be to God, in the Father's house there are many, many mansions. Jesus said, "If it were not so, I would have told you." If there had been any limitations, if there had been any lack of room, if any had been unwelcome, the Lord Jesus would have told us, but there was none. No, thank God, the gates of Heaven are never shut by day and there is no night there! So in this last invitation in the Bible, Jesus told John the beloved disciple to write it down that, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

This is the same *whosoever* of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that *whosoever* believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Salvation is for anybody in the world, and everybody who will have it.

We remember that the Saviour told of a king who made a marriage for his son, and sent his servants out to invite people to the

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THE LAST INVITATION IN THE BIBLE

(Continued from page two)

wedding. He said, "Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage." And then we are told, "So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests (Matt. 22:9, 10). All that they found, both the bad and the good, were invited to the wedding feast!"

Your heart may be as black as the pit of Hell, but God loves you, you, YOU! If you are a man who has murdered, if you are a blaspheming, drunken whoremonger, if you are a traitor to country, if you have dishonored your name, if you have forsaken your wife, if you have enslaved your soul by vile habits, God loves you still and invites you to come and be saved! If you are a woman whose virtue is dragged in the dust; if you are the pity of good women, the scorn of the careless world, and the plaything of evil men, God loves you still! Let me say it again that, high or low, rich or poor, white or black, whoever you are and wherever you are, and whatever is your state, God loves you and Heaven is made for you AND YOU ARE INVITED! "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Not one person in the universe needs to miss Heaven. You are invited!

3. The invitation is specially for those who WILL be saved. All who choose to be saved can be saved.

The invitation is to the thirsty, the invitation is to everybody, but it is only effective for those who decide and choose and act, to be saved. If you today "will take of the water of life freely," you that moment will be saved.

I remember in my young manhood thinking that a boy friend surely must have committed the unpardonable sin. He seemed unmoved by his mother's tears and his father's prayers and the pleadings of his friends. But how glad we were when visiting a near-by town he heard a great evangelist and turned to God for forgiveness and salvation. His salvation only waited until he would be saved, until he reached out and took the gift, the present that God had offered him so long.

Someone reads this, perhaps, who fears you have committed the unpardonable sin. Then I tell you how you may know, absolutely KNOW, that you have not committed the unpardonable sin. If you will to be saved, if you choose to be saved, then the very desire in your heart proves that you have not committed the unpardonable sin. For as long as the Word of God stands, then anyone who wishes, desires and chooses to take of the water of life, can be saved. God has not left out of His plan of mer-

cy anybody in the world who will be saved.

Don't you see, dear sinner, that God only waits until you will take what He offers so freely?

Then accept salvation today. It is as simple as taking a cup of cold water from the hand of a friend. It is as simple as receiving a Christmas gift from a beloved mother who gives you something that her loving hands have made. It is as simple as receiving a letter from the postman, or accepting the ministrations of a family doctor when you are ill. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." If you will, then you can take salvation today. Will you do it?

III. The Blessed Invitation Itself

We have seen who invites sinners to be saved, and who are invited. Now let us notice this blessed invitation.

1. It is to take the water of life. God means to have all of your sins forgiven. God means that He will change your heart and make you fit for Heaven. And He means that this wonderful salvation is to last forever. To take of the water of life means that you enter into the life of God, are born into His family, become a partaker of His divine nature. Thus, all who trust in Christ as Saviour then have everlasting life. And that is simply for you to take today. You are invited to have it.

A dear old man seventy-one years old held his hand for prayer and I talked to him following a funeral service. I asked him why he was not saved and he answered, "I do not know how!"

"Why, that is easy," I said. "Simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

He began to weep and said, "I have heard that before but I don't understand what you mean. I don't know how to believe."

After a moment of prayer God seemed to put on the tip of my tongue these words, "That simply means that God furnishes the Saviour and you furnish the sinner."

He looked up to me startled and then his eyes lightened and he began to chuckle while the tears still ran down his grey beard-stubbed face. "Well, I can certainly furnish the sinner, if He is willing to furnish the Saviour," he said. He claimed Christ as his Saviour and later came out publicly before men as a child of God.

So all you have to do is to accept what God has done for you, accept it as true that God died for you, that God loves you, that eternal life will be yours when you take it by faith. Will you risk Him who died for you today?

2. And best of all, this everlasting life is free. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Here on earth if you have plenty of money you can stay at the best hotels. If you have the price, you can eat in the most expensive dining rooms. If you can buy the ticket, you can ride the airliners or the transcontinental trains. If you have the money, you can live in the finest home, drive the most expensive car. But thank God, you can go to Heaven without money and without price! God is not trying to sell you something! He is trying to give salvation away free, and without cost.

Those who get the degrees from a great university must earn them one way or another. And members of the learned societies are only a select few who have proven their scholarship. It is only proper and right that among men, the highest eminence and success should come because of hard work, because of duties well done, because of personal merit. But let no one believe that salvation is on any such grounds. All of us alike are sinners and for all of us alike Jesus died. And now, thank God, all of us alike are offered salvation free, and a home in Heaven, and peace in the heart and sonship in the family of God! Salvation is free!

Now read again this blessed invitation, the last invitation in the Bible. "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." You are invited. Will you take salvation today? Will you drink of the water of life that Christ holds to your lips today? There is no price to pay. There is no merit to earn. Heaven, and all God has for

Plain Talking from the Master to His Disciples

(Continued from page one)

said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter." He said, "I'm going away, but when He comes, He will abide with you forever, forever." That is, if you will let Him, if you will keep the conditions of His abiding, He will be in you and He will be with you. You shall be the temple in which He will reign and dwell—"that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not."

The world doesn't see Him. The natural person doesn't understand what I am reading about this morning and you don't. You wonder what it all means. That is a foreign tongue to you. You don't understand it. How can you? How can the natural man understand the things of the spiritual? How can an unborn, an unregenerate soul teach a Sunday School class, and he wouldn't if I were the pastor. I would refuse to let my child, a blind child already, be led by a blind leader. How can anybody teach this Book that doesn't begin with a new birth for himself? How can he tell what he doesn't know? How can he give what he hasn't got? And how can you church members talk about the things of the Spirit when you have never been born again, and that is why your mouth is shut. You know you can't talk about the things of God. You don't know them. "But the Spirit," says Jesus, "whom the Father will send in my name, the world cannot receive because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you." That is to the new born soul those words are spoken.

No Manifestation of the Spirit in An Unclean Heart

And the Holy Spirit won't dwell in a person that isn't clean. You've got to be a clean man, a clean woman—I pause that you may take that in. The Holy Spirit won't dwell in an unclean heart. He may prompt

a poor sinner is offered to you today and is offered free.

If you want salvation, then you are to simply admit that you are a sinner and trust in Jesus Christ who died for you, to forgive you and save you. God loves you. Jesus died for you. The moment you put your trust in Him, risk Him, depend upon Him to do what He promised to do and forgive your sins He will do it.

If you will trust Christ as your Saviour today and take of this blessed salvation, and accept God's last invitation in the Bible, then first tell the Lord in your heart that you accept His offer with thanksgiving, that you take the salvation that He gives you and that you will claim Him today and live for Him hereafter, the best you can.

Then will you write to me and tell me that this day you have taken Christ as your Saviour? How happy I will be to hear it, and I will write you a letter of comfort and further instruction.

If it will make it easier, you may sign this coupon, or copy it, or you may simply write a letter in your own words. But I beg you, with all your heart trust Jesus Christ to save you and take, right now, the salvation which He offers so freely!

My Decision for Christ

Editor John R. Rice, Evangelist
The Sword of the Lord
145 N. Hale St.
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Brother Rice:
I have read your sermon on THE LAST INVITATION IN THE BIBLE. I confess that I have been a poor lost sinner, but here and now, today I confess my sins to God and trust Jesus Christ to forgive me and save me as He promised to do. I now take this water of life which He freely offers, depending on Him to save me and keep me and take me safe home to Heaven.

It is my purpose to confess Christ openly before men and to live for Him daily, by His help.

Signed _____

Address _____

it, He may work upon it, He may illuminate it, but He won't dwell in a heart where sin is hugged and fondled and coached and indulged. He won't stay there. God is holy. Jesus is holy. The Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit, and don't you talk about the Holy Spirit just from theory, trying to make people think you've got the Holy Spirit when you are living in sin and there is a secret sin in your life and you know it, that is holding you like a slave. And the Holy Spirit wants to make you free, clean.

One poet sang,

"I want, dear Lord, a heart that is white and clean,
A sun-lit heart, with not a cloud between;
A heart like Thine, a heart Divine,
A heart as white as snow;
On me, dear Lord, a heart like this bestow."

It is the clean heart in which the Holy Spirit dwells. It is the clean life that the Holy Spirit can use.

And then He goes on to say, "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." There is a combination.

"Life immortal, Heaven descending,
Lo, my heart the Spirit shrines.
God and man in oneness blending,

Oh, what fellowship divine!
Full salvation raised in Christ to life divine."

Christ in you. As Paul put it, "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh is a life of faith by the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

And then He says in the 21st verse, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." That is wonderful, you know. "He that hath my commandments"—and you've got them in your hand this morning, and some of you know the Word by heart and you can say with the Psalmist in that regard, "Thy word have I hid in my heart." What for? Have you hid it there and can say what he says, "That I might not sin against thee." "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." And then He says in the 23rd verse, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come (we will, the Trinity)—we will come." Jesus hadn't said this before. "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

(Continued on page four)

CUT ME OUT!

If you want the large new book, "PRAYER — ASKING AND RECEIVING," 21 chapters, 336 pages, written by Evangelist John R. Rice, as a free gift, then send 3 one-year subscriptions to *The Sword of the Lord* at \$1.00 a year (or send a subscription for three years to one person, and \$3.00) send the names and the \$3.00, and the book will be sent to you absolutely free, as a gift.

What a blessing you can be to others by subscribing for them to this foremost evangelistic weekly in America, *The Sword of the Lord*!

Before me is a letter that says, "I have enjoyed the blessings of *The Sword of the Lord* so much that I would like to have you send a subscription to a friend of mine." Then the friend's name was given. Another lady from Illinois says: "Have never ceased to be grateful to my dear friend, Mrs. E. _____, for the subscription she sent me of 'The Sword of the Lord.' It has been a constant blessing to me, as to many others. Now I want to be the means of sending it to someone else. Enclosed you will find \$2 for which I would like to have a year's subscription of 'The Sword of the Lord' sent to Mrs. _____, Kewanee, Illinois. The other \$1.00 I would like to have used for the Lord in the way you see fit." And I have here a long list of letters from preachers, scores and scores of them, saying how they have been personally blessed by the messages in *The Sword of the Lord* and that they are glad to commend the paper to people. Many of the preachers asked for sample copies.

Yesterday came a letter from a college president renewing his subscription and expressing his deep appreciation for the spiritual riches of *The Sword of the Lord*.

Thus we know that earnest, Bible-believing Christians will be greatly blessed by *The Sword of the Lord*. I just this morning answered a letter from a dear woman who said, "Both my husband and I are unsaved. Please send me two copies of your booklet, 'What Must I Do to Be Saved,' one for my husband and one for me. He is working in a defense plant." And then she said that her mother had subscribed to *The Sword of the Lord* for her; she had been deeply convicted reading the messages in *The Sword of the Lord*, and asked prayer that she might find Christ!

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Book Review

KEN BAILS OUT by Basil Miller. A story for boys. How Ken Murry and his pilot friend Ray bailed out of a blazing plane and his thrilling adventure, helping find Potato-Creek Johnny in the Sierra Mountains of California. There is excitement, clean Christian influence, and an engrossing story. We wish Ken and Lori were not quite such paragons of virtue and more like boys and girls we know, yet the book is wholesome and Christian and will delight young readers. 76 pages, hard binding, very attractive jacket, price 50c. Zondervan Publishing House.

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Plain Talking from the Master to His Disciples

(Continued from page three)

If You Love Him, You Will Prove It

In the presence of the table, in the presence of the emblems of His broken body, I want to ask you people this morning in this wonderful congregation and the people who are listening to me, Do you love Him? Do you love Him, really love Him? Can you say, "My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine. For Thee all the follies of sin I resign?"

Remember where you were last night, some of you. Remember what you did last night, some of you. Remember what some of you did who are listening to me over the air this morning. You were once church members, you know. Your name was on the church roll once. You were workers in the Sunday School and church and you are the children of the praying people of the past. Remember where you were last night. Some of you were drunk. You haven't gone to church this morning. You haven't been to church for years, lots of you. And you are not sick.

I am not talking to the people who are shut-ins and would be to church if they could; God bless them. You love Him, I know you do. You have fellowship with Him in those moments in your room

when nobody is there but your Lord, and the angel host isn't far away, and the faces of dear ones long gone come back to you in those fellowship moments with Heaven, and Heaven comes down and crowns your little room with the glory of the Lord. You would be at church if you could. You would be. You are the Lord's remembrances and you have learned that the jewels of character are the crystals of suffering, and you have learned that you get the sweetest perfume from the flowers when they are crushed. And you have learned that the finest of the wheat is the result of grinding stones and mill-wheels. You have found with the poet a joy in sorrow, a secret balm for pain, a handful of sweet manna of sunshine after rain. You have found a branch of healing near every bit of spring, a whispered promise stealing o'er every broken string. Oh, you would be at church if you could.

But I am talking to the people who are sitting in their easy chairs, smoking while I am preaching. I am talking to the people who have not been to church for a long time, and you would say to me if you could, "Well, if the people who go were only better, I would go." Well, if you think you've got something that I haven't got, that is better

than mine, come and show me, will you, and I will sit at your feet and learn. Jesus went to the temple on Sabbath. He went to the Father's house when He knew the service would be conducted by the people who were conspiring to kill Him, but He didn't stay away. And your heart isn't right or you wouldn't stay away. You'd be there if your heart was right.

Oh, man, business man, that God has crowned with social success and with money, you would be at church if your heart was right. And you would be getting hold of the people over whom you influence. And you do invite people, you know, you people who are listening to me this morning at a distance. You do invite people to parties and they come because you invite them. You have a personality which if consecrated to the service of Jesus Christ would work wonders for the kingdom of God. And He will hold you responsible some day for all you might have done for Him and for all you have done against Him.

You don't love Him, that is the trouble. If you loved Him you would keep His words. And it is no good to say "I love Him" if you don't keep His words. He says that. "Why call me Lord and do not the things which I say." Why worship Him with your lips when your heart is so far from Him? Why have your name on a religious piece of paper and think that is all that is necessary? It isn't all that is necessary. It doesn't count at all if your heart is not yielded to Jesus Christ and your lives not consecrated to His wonderful service.

And I call you. I am a sinner saved by grace but I am saved this morning and I love Him and I have been loving Him ever since He found me in a Gypsy tent, a little nobody, and I love Him more now than ever in my life. And I call you to the greatest and most glorious service in the world, to do His will. Don't you stumble over what that man does or this woman does. There was a man who did that, you know. Peter was always stumbling. And in one of the last interviews with his Master, he said, "And what shall this man do?" And Jesus said, "What is that to thee. You follow me." Never mind other people. You go straight and love Him with all your heart, and with all your mind and with all your strength for He is worthy of the best. He is worthy of the best. And the more we love Him and the closer we get to Him, the more humble we feel ourselves to be.

Jesus Wants Ordinary People

The beloved king of England, George, when he was dying, said to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in one of those quiet moments just before the angels came to take him home, "Bishop, I don't know why the peoples of the British Empire love me as they do." And after a pause he said, "You see, I am only an ordinary fellow. I'm only an ordinary fellow." But they are the people Jesus could use. He doesn't take many mighty, He doesn't put this treasure in very expensive vessels. He chooses earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of man. That is why he came to a Gypsy tent to stagger the brigadier generals of the Lord's host with what He could do with unlikely material.

And He wants some of you to do things for Him. Are you prepared to go all the way with Him? Are you prepared to love Him and do as He bids you? Are you prepared to say, "Lord, here I am this morning?" You at a distance, get on your knees there now in your home, put out your smoke, get on your knees and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and then accept Jesus as your Saviour and write and tell me you have done it. Let me read that message to these people in this tabernacle, in this great Moody Church, this great crowd, that you were joining in with us and beginning to love Jesus this morning. Won't you do it? He loves you. He died for you. He is exalted, a Prince and a Saviour, and He sits at the right hand of the Father and He sent me to tell you this morning that He loves you and that He has never given you up and He never will.

And don't you say you love Him unless you are prepared to step out and confess Him before the world, and take up your cross and follow Him and go home and dedicate every power you possess to His service and let the folks with

whom you live see you love Him and let that love drench your life and make it beautiful. The beauty of Jesus will radiate through you. It is astonishing what one man can do, what one woman can do when they are filled with the love of Christ. It is a wonderful thing how love works. It is the greatest thing in the world. It has a language all its own. It looks love, it feels love, it works love, it saturates love, it inspires things, it makes you do things. Why? Because the love of Christ constraineth. And nothing is impossible to the person who is filled with the Holy Spirit, with the love of God.

What Love Did for Jimmie

I have seen Him do some wonderful things, wonderful things. I got hold of a tramp one day, and I was very young as a preacher. He looked like a tramp and he smelled like a tramp and he was a tramp. When I got hold of him I found in those rags a cultured, refined personality. I knelt with him for two hours and prayed and repeated texts of Scripture and all the arguments I could think of and then I began to sing in his ear when I thought I had failed:

"Now I have found the ground wherein
Sure my soul's anchor may remain.
The wounds of Jesus made by my sin
Before the world's foundation slain,
Whose mercy shall unshaken stay
When Heaven and earth have fled away."

Oh, love, thy bottomless abyss,
My sins are swallowed up in Thee.
Covered is my unrighteousness,
No spot of guilt remains on me
While Jesus' blood, through earth
and skies,
Mercy, free boundless mercy cries."

He was listening. I went on to the last verse:

"Fixed on this ground will I remain,"

and he was singing. I stopped and let him go on and he did —

"Fixed on this ground will I remain,

This anchor shall my soul sustain,
When Heaven and earth have fled away,

Mercy fuller I then shall prove,
Loved with an everlasting love."

He had been brought up in a home where they sang that. It had gotten into his blood and into his soul and into his brain. He got his arm around me and he let go this time, and he looked at me and said, "Jesus has saved me." I said, "It was just like Him. I knew He would. I told you He would." He said, "I am a saved man."

And when we got up I said, "Where are you going to sleep tonight?" He said, "I haven't any place." "Have you any money?" "No." "Well, you will go with me," and I took him home with me. The first thing I did was to bathe him and I scrubbed him like a mother scrubbing a child. He was older than I but I scrubbed him. I could not cut his hair. I would have done it. Then I got some clothes of my own and put them on him and threw the old rags through the window into the yard, at the back of the house. I took him down and said, "We will eat," but neither of us could eat. We were so full of the love of Jesus and for one another. Jesus makes you do those things. That is how love works. That is how Jesus works, through human men and women, to bring about His glory.

I cried with him and took him to bed and I prayed with him and I tucked him in and I kissed him. "Now," I said, "You have not told me your name yet. I have not asked. I have not been rude. Now tell me your name." He said, "It is Jimmie." He was a chartered accountant, registered, proper accountant, and that means something in England. He said, "I have been a tramp for seven years. I have disgraced everybody. My wife and children won't look at me." I said, "Where is your wife, Jimmie?" What is the next name besides Jimmie?" and I got that. "Well, now," I said, "I am going to write to your wife. You've got to tell me her name and where to find her." He was reluctant but he told me and I wrote her before I slept.

I said, "I've got Jimmie. He is in my home. Jesus has saved him. I wish you could see him," I said, "but Jesus has seen him and saves him and loves him. What shall I do with him?" And she was courteous. She wrote and said, "You've

got him, have you? You can keep him. You can keep him," she said, "I have had enough of him. He has disgraced me and the children." Poor woman, God pity the women who have that experience. She said, "He has disgraced me. He has broken my heart. He is the only man I ever loved or ever shall love, but I don't want him any more."

I said, "All right, I will keep him." I got him a job directly in one of the china manufacturing firms. He was the very man they wanted, the very man they were looking for. And in six months you wouldn't have known him. I said to him on a Friday night, "Jimmie, I want you tomorrow as soon as you get through business to spend the afternoon with me." I went and got photographed with him. I didn't tell him what I was doing. When the photograph came back — and it was beautiful — it was a decent photograph; he was in it and I was in it — it was good! and I sent a copy to his wife. I said, "I thought you would like to see Jimmie."

I didn't say any more, but you know that Gipsy in me knew — you can call it what you like, but that divine intuitiveness which God has given to my race, quickened by the Holy Spirit — I knew that woman would be there the following Sunday after she got that photograph, or the Sunday after. She wasn't the first Sunday, but the second Sunday I saw her come in. I knew everybody there in the district, for I had been there years. I knew the people. I was on the lookout, and when she came in I knew it was she because she was staring round for somebody. She was looking for Jimmie. She was finding Jimmie, and I had taken good care to keep Jimmie out of the way. I had given him something to do so that she shouldn't find him. And when the service was over, one of my officials came to me and said, "There is a woman who wants to see you." I said, "I said, 'I know. I will be there in a minute or two,' and I went. And when I looked at her I said, 'So you do want him, don't you?' She said, 'Gipsy, he is my husband. He is the father of my children, and I had never loved anybody else and never shall.' She said, 'Where is he?' I said, 'Just a minute. He is all right. I will take you to him in a minute or two.' I had a few words to say to her. And then I took her to the door of the room where Jimmie was. I opened the door and said, 'You go in there, you will find him.' I didn't go in. It was too sacred. And if you want to know the rest of the story, some day ask the angels and they will tell you. But love did it, the love of Jesus did it. And it will do it for you, my brother, and for you, my sister. He that hath my words and keepeth them, is obedient to them and walks in the light, that person that keeps my word is the one that loveth me."

Do you love Him? Do you love Him? Then go out and show it by a Jesus-like life. As you go out this morning into the world, take the prayer on your lips, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me. All his wonderful passion and purity. Oh, thou Spirit divine, all my nature refine, 'til the beauty of Jesus be seen in me." Let us pray.

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, Holy Spirit of Pentecost, the promised gift of Jesus to me and to the believers, oh, come this morning, come this morning! Thou art here! Just drench everyone of us with love to Thee, with love to Thee. Make our lives just lovely with the spirit of Jesus, so that everybody will know how we love Thee and are filled with Thee by the influence and the atmosphere we bring around us. Even when we say nothing, our very countenances will reveal Thy presence. Amen.

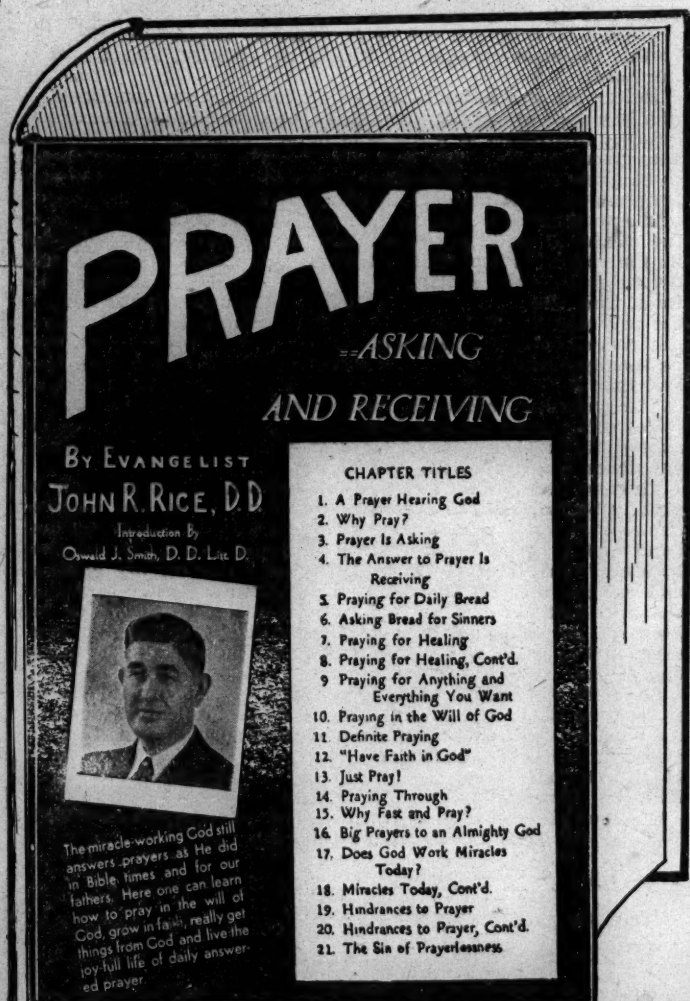
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